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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/010,892	11/05/2001	Bradley W. Plattner	GRD0128.US	3059

7590

04/23/2003

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EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/010,892

Applicant(s)

PLATTNER ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Art Unit

2839

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication app ars on the cov r sh et with th corr spondenc address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "*a ramped side extending farther from the inner surface in a direction away from the opening*" in claims 1, 9 and 16 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1, 3-4, 7, 10-11, 14 and 16 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 6, "each said pointed projection" should be changed as -- each of said pointed projections --.

Claims 3 and 10, line 1, "said adjacent side" lacks proper antecedent basis.

Claims 4 and 11, line 2, "said two adjacent sides" lacks proper antecedent basis.

Claims 7 and 14, line 2, "each said housing portion" should be changed as -- each of said housing portions --.

Claims 7 and 14, line 2, "other said housing portion" should be changed as -- other of said housing portions --.

Art Unit: 2839

Claim 16, line 4, "each said projection" should be changed as -- each of said projections --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, line 7; claim 9, line 6 and claim 16, line 5, "a ramped side extending farther from the inner surface *in a direction away from the opening*" are unclear and confusing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-7, 9-14 and 16-17, insofar as that can be understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Douty et al. (4,367,005) in view of Bandyopadhyay (5,203,397).

Regarding claims 1 and 9, Douty et al., figures 1 and 3, disclose a strain relief cover which read on an electrical connector for coupling a plurality of electrical conductors which enclosed in a sleeve, comprising:

- a plurality of electrical conductors (46);
- a sleeve (12, a sheath for a cable) carries the plurality of electrical conductors (column 1, lines 31-33); and
- a connector (10 and 14, 16, a connector and a cover members, respectively) comprises a housing which including a first end has an opening with an inner surface (X, attachment) to accommodate the sleeve and the plurality of electrical conductors. The inner surface has a plurality of pointed projections (24, a plurality of teeth), each of the pointed projections has a ramped side (A, attachment), which is extending farther from the inner surface in a direction away from the opening.

Douty et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for a fiberglass sleeve.

Bandyopadhyay discloses a die-casing assembly having a plurality of conductors (10) is surrounded by a fiberglass sleeve (20, column 5, lines 3-5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Douty et al.'s cable with the fiberglass sleeve as taught by Bandyopadhyay, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

Art Unit: 2839

✓ Regarding claim 2, Douty et al., figure 3, disclose at least one electrical terminal (42) being constrained within the housing and electrically connected to at least one of the plurality of electrical conductors.

✓ Regarding claims 3 and 10, Douty et al., figure 1, disclose an adjacent side (C, attachment) of the pointed projections forms an obtuse angle with the inner surface.

✓ Regarding claims 4 and 11, Douty et al., figure 1, disclose each of the pointed projections has a front side (B, attachment) which opposing with the ramped side and adjacent to two adjacent sides (C, attachment). The front side being generally perpendicular to the inner surface.

✓ Regarding claims 5-6 and 12-13, Douty et al., figure 1, disclose the plurality of pointed projections are formed a plurality of rows on the inner surface.

✓ Regarding claims 7 and 14, Douty et al., figure 2, disclose the housing includes at least two housing portions (14, 16). Each of the housing portions configured to connect with at least one other of the housing portions.

Regarding claims 16 and 17, a method of forming an electrical cable is inherent property of Douty et al. and Bandyopadhyay.

7. Claims 8 and 15, insofar as that can be understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Douty et al. and Bandyopadhyay as applied to claims 1 and 9 above, and further in view of Wing et al. (3,156,514).

Douty et al., figure 1, disclose the pointed projections include two adjacent sides (C, attachment) being adjacent to the ramped side that is extending from the inner surface.

Douty et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for the two adjacent sides form a pyramid-shaped point.

Wing et al., figure 7, disclose a connector has face (45) with a pyramidal protrusion (46) that read on the two adjacent sides form a pyramid-shaped point for biting into the cable. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Douty et al.'s pointed projections to have the pyramidal protrusion as taught by Wing et al., in order to easily bite and securely clasp to the cable.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicants' disclosure: Huber (4,269,466) discloses a connector and a strain relief for flat transmission cable, Lemke (4,887,977) discloses a cable connector having a resilient cover and Kramer et al. (5,505,637) disclose a shielded connector with a hermaphroditic shell.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is (703) 306-5711. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.


10. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (703) 308-2710. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 2839

11. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

TL.

April 21, 2003.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thanh-Tam Le', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the signature.

Thanh-Tam Le

AU. 2839.

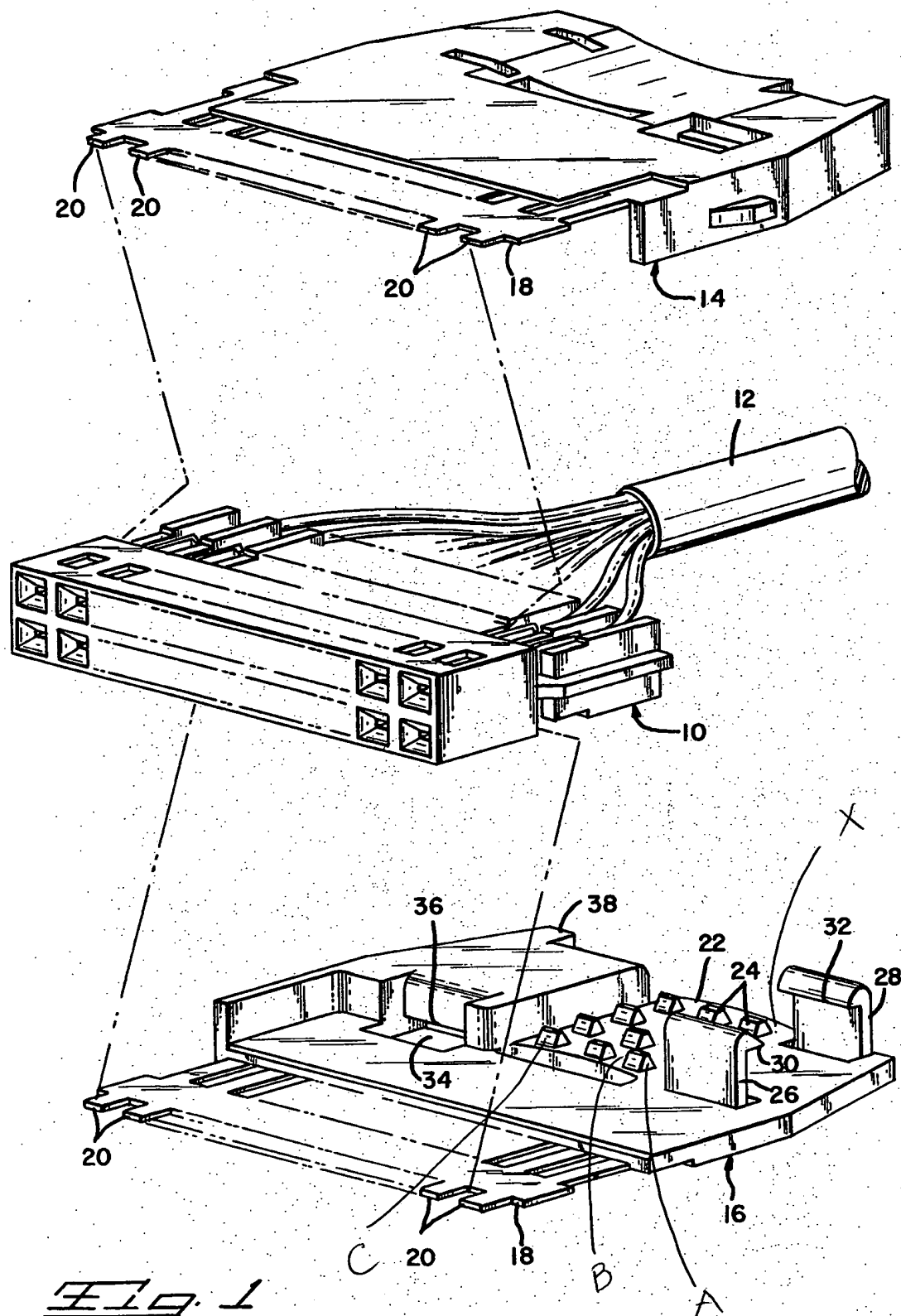


FIG. 1